GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1369
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND UTTARANCHAL
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(c) the progress made in regard to laying of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) in these States;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to cover all the areas of the States with OFC;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide value added services in backward areas of the States;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the private companies have also been given permission alongwith the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the field of communications in these States;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether all the exchanges of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal have been connected with new technique; and

(j) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b): The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal as on 31.01.2003 is given as under:-

State	Urban	Rural	Total	Likely Date of clearance of Waiting List
Andhra Pradesh	9747	77863	87610	30.09.2003
Uttaranchal	3714	4809	8523	30.09.2003

The likely date of clearance of waiting list is subject to timely availability of resources.

(c)&(d): All the important places are already connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). In Andhra Pradesh 34215 RKMs (route Kilometers) of OFC and in Uttaranchal 1131 RKMs OFC have been laid as on 31.12.2002. The target of OFC for the year 2002-03 for Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal are 3000 RKMs and 1100 RKMs respectively and the achievement made upto 31.01.2003 are 2278 RKMs and 542 RKMs respectively.

(e)&(f): Yes Sir. Internet services are already available on dial-up basis from all the exchanges provided with reliable media. As per terms and conditions of licence for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, an operator is required to cover 90% of the Metro City Service Areas within one year and in other Telecom Circles 10% of District Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Linensee is also permitted to cover any other other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarter/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarter/town shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of rural / backward areas. However, the Government operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. envisages to cover the National Highways all over the country which will provide incidentally limited coverage benefits to rural/backward areas falling enroute.

(g)&(h): Yes, Sir. The following private companies have also been given licences alongwith Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limitedto provide CMTS (Cellular Mobile Telephone Service)in Andhra Pradeshand U.P.-West Telecom Circles Service Areas. Uttaranchal forms a part of U.P.- West Telecom Circle Service Area.

Andhra Pradesh	IDEA Cellular Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd. Huchison Essar South Limited
U.P. (West)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Bharati Cellular Ltd.

The Private basic service providers which are working in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal are given as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	Tata Teleservice Limited Reliance Infocom Limited
U.P. (West) including Uttranchal	Reliance Infocom Limited

(i)&(j): In Andhra Pradesh all the exchanges and in Uttaranchal 380 out of 412 exchanges have been provided on reliable media. Remaining 32 exchanges are likely to be provided with reliable media by 31.03.2003, subject to availability of resources.